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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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USSR

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25X1 SUBJECT

OB Situation of the Soviet Ground Forces and  
the German Volkspolizei

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SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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Reports received from the Soviet-occupied countries of Europe between  
1 January and 1 February 1952 indicate no change in the organization and  
strength of the Soviet ground forces there. While at their military posts  
during the past two months, the troops were engaged primarily in the inten-  
sive training of the recruits who arrived in the fall of 1951. A reshuff-  
ling of units which began in some parts of the Soviet Zone of Germany in  
November 1951 still continued during the first

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GERMANYOrder of Battle.

1. Reports received between 1 January and 1 February 1952 indicated no changes  
in the general disposition of the Soviet ground forces in Germany up to mid-  
January.
2. The following units and rear services installations in the Soviet Zone of Ger-  
many, with location and date of observation, were confirmed between  
1 January and 1 February 1952:

a. GUQ Units of the Group of Occupation Forces Germany (GOFG).

56th Motor Trans Regt	25X1	MUMSBORE	17 January
An Engr Regt		BERNBURG	1 January
10th (?) Gun Arty Brig		RATHENOW	12 December
An Apty Div		POTSDAM	7 January
10th Gds Gun Arty Brig		POTSDAM	December
Hq 2d Gds AAA Div		POTSDAM	13 November
306th Gds AAA Div		POTSDAM	13 November
6th (?) Gds AAA Div		CHLANTZ-AUM area	19 December

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No Change in Class. ☐

☐ Declassified

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## CLASSIFICATION

STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION
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32d (?) AAA Div	FRANKFURT/Oder- KUESTRIN	3 January
53d Central Repair Shop	BERLIN-OB-RSCHOE- NOWEIDE	23 December
54th Central Repair Shop	LEIPZIG-WURZEN	November
123d Tank Repair Shop	MUELLROSE	7 January
	KIRCHHOESER	7 January
800th Ration Supply Depot	SATZKORN	26 December
820th Ration Supply Depot	FRANKFURT/Oder	8 January
Main Clothing Depot	BERNAU	23 December
Main Sig Depot	BAD SAAROW- PIESKOW	8 January
Main Medical Depot	FUERSTENWALDE	9 January
Main Fuel Supply Depots	DRESDEN	17 January
	VELTEN	17 January
Main Ordnance Depot	JESSEN	2 January
Main Engr Depot	KETSCHENDORF	9 January
A Repair Shop	KETSCHENDORF	10 January
b. <u>Eighth Guards Army.</u>		
Army Hq	WEIMAR-NOHRA	October
220th Hvy Tank SP Regt	GLAUCHAU	24 November
257th Motor Trans Bn	WEIMAR	19 December
Army Fuel Supply Depot	MUENCHEN-BERNS- DORF	9 January
Army Repair Shop	MARKERSDORF	18 October
Army Sig Depot	BURGSTAEDT	3 October
An AT Arty Brig of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps	GERA or RUDOL- STADT	25 December
Hq 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	OHDRUF	10 January
15th (Gds ?) Tank SP Regt	OHDRUF	28 November
87th Gun Arty Regt	PLAUEN	21 November
Hq 20th Gds Mecz Div	JENA	27 December
Hq 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div	NAUMBURG	17 January
172d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt	GOETHA	21 December

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17th Gds Tank SP Regt		WEISSENFELS	January
Hq 21st Gds Mecz Div		HALLE	17 January
28th Gds Tank Regt		HALLE	November
c. <u>Third Shock Army.</u>			
Hq 3d Gds AAA Div		MAGDEBURG	13 November
15th Gds Engr Bn		BARBY	21 December
Army Fuel Supply Depot		MAGDEBURG	9 January
Army Medical Depot		MAGDEBURG	14 November
Hq 19th Gds Mecz Div		HILLERSLEBEN	14 January
63d Gds Mecz Regt		MAGDEBURG or HILLERSLEBEN	9 October
10th Gds RL Regt		SCHWERIN	31 December
Hq 94th Gds Mta Rifle Div		SCHWERIN	28 December
Hq 18th Mecz Div	PERLEBERG	28 December	
58th Mecz Regt	PERLEBERG	14 December	
1054th How Arty Regt	LUDWIGSLUST	24 December	

d. First Guards Mechanized Army. 25X1

6th Ordnance Bn		MEISSEN	19 October
804th Repair Shop		LEIPZIG-TAUCHA	16 November
Army Ration Supply Depot		DRESDEN	25 October
Army Fuel Supply Depot		DRESDEN	7 January
Hq 8th Gds Mecz Div		GRIMA	16 January
64th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt		LEISNIG	8 November
133d Gds Engr Bn		GRIMA	13 November
Hq 9th Tank Div		RIEZA	17 January
95th Tank Regt		MEISSEN	25 October
44th Gds Tank Regt		BAUTZEN	3 November

e. Second Guards Mechanized Army.

31st AAA Div		SCHOENWALDE	7 January
An AT Arty Brig		ORANIENBURG	7 January
A RL Regt of the Army		SCHOENWALDE	29 December
Army Fuel Supply Depot		FUERSTENBERG	7 January

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Hq 9th Gds Tank Div		NEUSTRELITZ	7 January
33d Gds Mtz Rifle Regt		PASEWALK	17 December
126th Gds RL Bn		NEUSTRELITZ	27 December
Hq 12th Gds Tank Div		NEURUPPIN	17 January
Hq 1st Mecz Div		DOEBERITZ	17 January
3d Tank Bn of the 37th Mecz Regt		DOEBERITZ	28 November
219th Tank Regt		DOEBERITZ	28 November

f. Third Guards Mechanized Army. 25X1

Hq of an AAA Div		KULTERSDORF	19 December
91st Gds RL Regt		LUCKENWALDE (?)	January
Army Fuel Supply Depot		KULTERSDORF	15 January
Army Medical Depot		JUTTERBOG	20 November
Hq 14th Gds Mecz Div		JUTTERBOG	13 January
49th Gds Mecz Regt		JUTTERBOG	13 January
10th Tank Regt		JUTTERBOG	13 January
Hq 6th Gds Tank Div		WITTENBERG	9 January
Hq 7th Gds Tank Div		ROSSLAU	10 January
79th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt		GROSS. KUEHNIAU	15 December
Hq 9th Mecz Div		COTTBUS	7 January
692d How Arty Regt		COTTBUS	14 November

g. Fourth Guards Mechanized Army.

An AAA Div		EBERSWALDE- FUERSTENWALDE	13 December
118th Sig Regt		Eberswalde	30 December
51st (?) Mtrcl Regt		EBERSWALDE	18 November
Army Fuel Supply Depot		EBERSWALDE	15 January
Hq 6th Gds Mecz Div		BERNAU	1 January
16th Gds Mecz Regt		BAD FREIENWALDE	17 January
17th Gds Mecz Regt		EBERSWALDE	21 November
35th Gds Mecz Regt		BERNAU	7 January
93d Tank Regt		BAD FREIENWALDE	12 December
82d Gds Hv Tank SP Regt		EBERSWALDE	17 January

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576th How Arty Regt	BERNAU	29 December
240th Gds Mort Regt	EBERSWALDE	10 November
An AAA Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div	BERNAU	1 December
52d Gds RL Bn	BERNAU	29 December
22d Gds Engr Bn	BERNAU	29 December
33d Gds Sig Bn	BERNAU	1 December
34th Tank Tng Bn	BERNAU	7 January
Hq 7th Gds Mecz Div	FUERSTENWALDE	7 January
24th Gds Mecz Regt	FUERSTENWALDE	14 December
26th Gds Mecz Regt	FUERSTENWALDE	13 November
Hq 25th Tank Div	ORANIENBURG	10 January
111th Tank Regt	ORANIENBURG	29 December
162d Tank Regt	ORANIENBURG	29 December
175th Tank Regt	PRENZLAU	5 January
83d Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt	PRENZLAU	7 December
A Mort Regt of the 25th Tank Div	PRENZLAU	25 November
Hq 10th Gds Tank Div	KRAUPNITZ	7 January
63d Gds Tank Regt	BRANDENBURG	12 December
51st Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt	KRAUPNITZ	24 December

Reassignment of Posts.

3. Supplementing the information on the reshuffling of headquarters and units in all army areas, which was contained in the two last monthly reports, the following new or confirmatory information has been received. \*

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- a. Eighth Guards Army. The headquarters and the 15th Gds Tank SP Regt of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div were confirmed in OHDRUF. Since reports from RUDOLSTADT and SAALFELD it is believed that the divisional components previously stationed at the two posts are now located in the OHDRUF-25X1 GRAWINKEL area. The military posts of PLAUE and MEININGEN are still occupied by three regiments of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div. The barracks installations vacated in SAALFELD and RUDOLSTADT were probably reoccupied by all of the headquarters troops of the XXVIII Gds Mtz Rifle Corps, with the exception of the corps headquarters itself and the AT artillery brigade which seemed to have remained in the Russ Kaserne, GERA, for the time being. There have been vague indications that the 65th Gds Mecz Regt of the 20th Gds Mecz Div moved from WEIMAR-NORHA to GERA in December 1951 or early January 1952. Contrary to previous beliefs, the unidentified guards rocket launcher regiment of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps seems to have remained in LEIPZIG-SCHEIBENAU.

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b. Third Shock Army.

In conjunction with changes in the billeting of units at the SCHWERIN military post, the Hq IX Mtz Rifle Corps finally moved from the Schlossgarten quarter to Goerries airfield, and the 24 94th Gds Mtz Rifle Div from the former DAF (German labor front) building to the Fritsch Kaserne. In the Hindenburg Kaserne, components of the 10th Gds RL Regt of the IX Mtz Rifle Corps moved into quarters which were vacated by three units transferred to HAGENOW.

c. Second Guards Mechanized Army.

There is a possibility that at least some components of the 34th Gds Mtz Rifle Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div moved from the SS Kaserne at DROEGEN near FUERSTENBERG to NEURUPPIN.

d. Third Guards Mechanized Army.

In conjunction with the movements from LUCKENWALDE to WUENSDORF during the second half of December 1951, it is believed that the Hq Third Gds Mecz Army moved into the southern section of the former Panzertruppen Schule, WUENSDORF. The extensive workshop buildings in the northern section of the Panzertruppen Schule were found to house a repair shop [ ] which was previously stationed in KIRCHHOESER. The headquarters units of the army, including the army's signal regiment, moved into other quarters at WUENSDORF and into Camp ZOSSEN. Heavy AAA batteries of the army's AAA division have moved into emplacements around the entire military post of WUENSDORF. The 91st Gds RL Regt, previously stationed in TREBBIN, either moved to WUENSDORF or to the Norddeutsche Werke in LUCKENWALDE at the end of December 1951. Most of the LUCKENWALDE installations previously occupied by military personnel have been derequisitioned by the Russians. It appeared that only the Stalags (former PW base camps) were still occupied by guard details in early January 1952. Information on [ ] weapons indicates the possibility that, also in the billeting area of the 9th Mecz Div, there may have been a hitherto unnoticed reshuffling of units at the beginning of winter.


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Training.

4. Training of the units in all posts in the Soviet Zone of Germany progressed with great intensity in December 1951 and the first half of January 1952. The activities observed included the individual training of recruits as well as unit training at company level. Specifically, the troops were engaged in the following types of training:

In the barracks yard. Drill with and without hand arms, sometimes even with wooden rifles; theoretical and practical training with carbines, AT rifles, light and heavy machine guns and light mortars with the soldiers being rated individually in their skill in handling their arms, probably preparatory to a final efficiency rating during the inspection completing the recruit training period; training at an obstacle wall or in an obstacle course, sometimes with full equipment including field pack; drill with gas masks and gas-protective clothing; cross country runs with full equipment; AA defense with light machine guns on tripod mounts and light AA guns, including aiming practice at model aircraft and dummy parachutists; practice with artillery pieces of all types, motor vehicles, tanks, range finders and battery commander's telescopes; artillery drill, such as mortar practice with training ammunition; subcaliber firing practice with tank and SP guns; political indoctrination; ordnance instruction and ballistics; tactical sand table instruction; callisthenics and athletics; maintenance service on motor vehicles and weapons.

  
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At the target range. Record practice with light infantry weapons.

In the field. Infantry field training individually and at squad and platoon level, including: close-combat training, digging in and the throwing of live and practice hand grenades as well as simulated attacks with the objective of overrunning an enemy position from a medium distance and penetrating it; the limbering and unlimbering of artillery pieces drawn by trucks and caterpillar tractors; moving into firing positions; laying and aiming practice with artillery pieces, including tank guns; orientation by map; range estimation; road and cross-country driving of individual vehicles and tanks; the training of student drivers by divisional driver schools; road marches at company level with full equipment including field pack; subcaliber firing practice with tanks and SP guns; the training of signal troops in line construction and the operation of field telephone and pack radio sets; the training of AAA troops in the establishment of emplacements near their quarters, laying and aiming practice at aircraft with and without sleeve targets, and in conjunction with searchlights at night. In general, these types of field training were conducted in the vicinity of the military billeting areas or at the military post drill grounds, with heavy weapons and tanks sometimes remaining at the drill grounds in temporary sheds during the nights. In January, some troop units trained during the night and rested in the daytime.

At troop training grounds. Record practice with light infantry weapons at squad level and individual record firing with tank and artillery pieces in cycles of from two to four days; firing practice by platoon leaders and company commanders. Military billeting areas have become increasingly inaccessible because civilian traffic is prohibited in the approach areas and observation is obstructed by the construction of high fences. Hence, the efforts of the sources to follow the events in the billeting areas is limited.

5. Reports from TEMPLIN, LIEBERROSE, WEISSWASSER and KINDEL indicate the possibility that, in 1952, the troops may move to the troop training grounds as early as March, with advance parties possibly leaving the military posts for the troop training grounds in late February.

Personnel.

6. A train of 50 boxcars with military personnel arrived in the Soviet Zone of Germany via KUESTRIN on 5 January 1952 and proceeded to DRESDEN. The train probably carried either specialists or recruits inducted in the fall of 1951 who arrived behind schedule.
7. During the period from 8 to 24 January 1952, the military leave trains operating on the FRANKFURT/Oder - BREST LITOVSK line carried an average of 300 soldiers a day in both directions.

  
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Transportation.

8. Operational difficulties of the Soviet Zone railroads have eased slightly if contrasted with conditions prevailing in the preceding month. The daily backlog of loaded cars awaiting dispatch dropped from 2,000 to 1,400 units.
9. Coal stocks available, although fluctuating slightly, were kept at about the same level. On 13 January 1952, approximately 267,000 tons of coal were on hand. Considering a daily coal consumption quota of 22,190 tons as was fixed on 8 January, this quantity would be adequate for about 12 days.
10. Traffic through border crossing stations along the Oder/Neisse line continued to be normal during the period under review. In the first third of January, the crude oil shipments dispatched from ZISTERSDORF to the Soviet Zone of Germany through BAD SCHANDAU increased to a daily average of 81 railroad tank cars. However, after mid-January, they dropped again to an average of 70 cars.
11. The completion date for the reconstruction of the second track on the FRANKFURT/Oder - GUBEN railroad line had to be postponed to the spring of 1952 because of difficulties experienced in the procurement of construction materials.
12. On 11 January 1952, a total of 2,362 railroad tank cars was available in the zone. A count made on 19 January showed that 2,224 heavy-duty flatcars and 57 well wagons were available. Rolling stock that was operating outside the zone on the day of count were not included in these figures. A tabulation made on 27 January 1952 on tank shuttle trains kept at the disposal of the Soviets at various places of the zone shows that 13 such trains having shuttle train Nos 270 through 283 are available. Each of these trains consists of 23 to 27 heavy-duty flatcars. Of the cars concerned, 178 have a load capacity of about 50 tons, while 86 have a load capacity of 80 tons.

Supply Situation.

13. The volume of Soviet supply traffic from the U.S.S.R. to the Soviet Zone of Germany and within the Soviet Zone of Germany in December 1951 rose over the November volume by about 50 percent. A total of 1,266 carloads of ammunition came in from the east in December compared with only 687 carloads in November. The fact that the volume of ammunition shipments arriving at the ammunition depots was substantially above the volume of outgoing shipments indicates an increase in the stockpiling level. Reports also indicated the efforts to increase the capacity of the tank and motor vehicle repair shops. The program, which apparently began in the summer of 1951, of assigning repair shop trucks to troop units continued so that the units will probably be largely equipped with their own maintenance services in the future. Incoming supply shipments from the U.S.S.R. also included about 150 carloads of spare parts in December and 57 new T-34 and JS tanks which were issued directly to troop units between the end of December 1951 and mid-January 1952.
14. The stockpiling at the new fuel depot of SERASSGRAEBCHEN-BIERNSDORF, about 12 km north of KAMENZ in Saxony, began at the end of December 1951. About 2,500 cubic meters of fuel had been stored there by the middle of January 1952. The depot has a storage capacity of about 4,000 cubic meters.  there is a possibility that it is either a

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branch installation of the depot in DRESDEN or that the depot in DRESDEN was deactivated and reestablished in STRASSGRAEBCHEN-BERNS-DORF. An equally large fuel depot which is under construction at RADENSLIEBEN near NEURUPPIN will probably be completed in February or March 1952.

#### Miscellaneous.

15. A report of early January 1952 for the first time stated that AA guns, probably consisting of a battery of the 32d (?) AAA Div, were emplaced on the east bank of the Oder River at KUESTRIN. A report from FRANKFURT/Oder also stated that emplacements for AA guns were being prepared on the east bank of the river there.

#### German Volkspolizei.

16. [redacted] 25X1  
[redacted] for a change in the structure of the HVA units began in early 1952. It is said that groups of four regimental type VP Dienststellen (VPDs) would be expanded into divisions. HVA officers were quoted as saying that the shortage of suitable officer personnel would require a postponement of the activation of the six division headquarters until the return of policemen graduating from courses in the U.S.S.R. in the fall of 1952. It was reported that, as an initial measure preparatory for an eventual activation of divisions, all 7th Sonderabteilungen (Armored Sections) of each VPD would be pooled into battalions for purposes of more effective training. There were rumors that the other Sonderabteilungen would also be grouped together for training purposes. HVA officers stated that the training in 1952 would aim at preparing the police units for tactical employment at battalion (Kommando) level and, in the case of infantry units, probably at regimental level comprising three Kommandos each. However, it is believed that, for political reasons, the plans for the activation of divisions will materialize only after a decision regarding a West German contribution to NATO.

17. A substantial increase in the personnel strength of the Grenzpolizei Kommandos and Kommandanturen along the zonal border has been noticed since the beginning of 1952. It appears that also police from HVA units were reassigned to the Grenzpolizei upon completion of their three-year term of police service. In this manner, the Grenzpolizei tends to become a reserve pool for the paramilitary Volkspolizei. Reasons for the intensification of border control have not been determined to date. There is a possibility that this measure may be designed to prevent prospective police draftees from escaping in anticipation of the promulgation of a universal police service law, or to replace gradually the Soviet rifle battalions still assigned to border guard duty.

#### AUSTRIA-HUNGARY

##### General.

18. The OB situation of the Soviet Army forces in Austria-Hungary was not subject to any discernible changes up to the middle of January 1952.

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##### Order of Battle.

19. The following regiments were confirmed [redacted]  
[redacted] the 14th Gds Mecz Regt of the 13th Gds Mecz Div in the Trost Kaserne, VIENNA up to 25 October 1951; the 15th Gds Mecz Regt of the

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13th Gds Mecz Div in TRAISKIRCHEN up to 8 November 1951; and an unidentified AAA regiment of the 23d AAA Div in KORNEUBURG up to 30 November 1951.

Movement of the Hq 13th Gds Mecz Div.

20. Several reported indicate that the Hq 13th Gds Mecz Div, stationed in VIENNA up to July 1951, is now located in MOEDLING.

POLAND.

21. [redacted] that components of the 20th Tank Div moved from OPPELN to the NEUHAUSER, STRANS-SPROTTAU in the spring of 1951.

U.S.S.R.

22. [redacted] established the location of the 59th Gds Rifle Div in the Odessa MD. At the end of World War II, the division was subordinate to the Forty-Sixth Army which is also carried in the Odessa MD.

23. [redacted] confirmed a 16th Div and a 30th Div there under a corps headquarters. The units concerned are believed to be the 16th Gds Mecz Rifle Div and the 30th Gds Mecz Div. At the end of the war, the 16th Gds Rifle Div was subordinate to the XXXVI Gds/Rifle Corps of the Eleventh Gds Army and committed in the KOENIGSBERG area. It is therefore conceivable that the 16th Gds Mecz Rifle Div may have still been subordinate to this corps headquarters in INSTERBURG in the fall of 1948. The 8th Gds Airborne Div, one of whose wartime regiments was identified in INSTERBURG by [redacted] in September 1949, may have been the parent organization of the 30th Gds Mecz Div.

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